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November 21, 1861.

Sir BENJAMIN COLLINS BRODIE, Bart., President, in the Chair.

In accordance with the Statutes, notice was given from the Chair of the ensuing Anniversary Meeting, and the list of Council and Officers recommended for election was read as follows:—

President.—Major-General Edward Sabine, R.A., D.C.L., LL.D.

Treasurer.—William Allen Miller, M.D., LL.D.

Secretaries.— { William Sharpey, M.D., LL.D.
George Gabriel Stokes, Esq., M.A., D.C.L.

Foreign Secretary.—William Hallows Miller, Esq., M.A.

Other Members of the Council.—John Couch Adams, Esq., M.A., D.C.L.; Sir William George Armstrong, C.B.; Benjamin Guy Babington, M.D.; Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, Bart., D.C.L.; George Bowdler Buckton, Esq.; William Benjamin Carpenter, M.D.; Sir Philip de Malpas G. Egerton, Bart.; William Fairbairn, LL.D.; Captain Douglas Galton, R.E.; William Robert Grove, Esq., M.A., Q.C.; William Hopkins, Esq., M.A., LL.D.; John Lubbock, Esq.; James Paget, Esq.; Joseph Prestwich, Esq.; William Spottiswoode, Esq., M.A.; John Tyndall, Esq.

Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Mr. Gassiot, Mr. Lubbock, Dr. W. A. Miller and Dr. John Webster, having been nominated by the President, were elected by ballot Auditors of the Treasurer's Accounts on the part of the Society.

The following communications were read:—

I. "On some Varieties of Tannin." By JOHN STENHOUSE, LL.D., F.R.S. (See p. 401.)

II. "On Larixinic Acid, a crystallizable volatile principle found in the Bark of the Larch Tree" (*Pinus Larix*, Linn.). By JOHN STENHOUSE, LL.D., F.R.S. (See p. 405.)

III. "On the Great Magnetic Disturbance of August 28 to September 7, 1859, as recorded by Photography at the Kew Observatory." By Balfour Stewart, Esq., A.M. (See p. 407.)

IV. "On the Aquiferous and Oviducal System in the Lamellibranchiate Mollusks." By George Rolleston, M.D., and C. Robertson, Esq. (See p. 411.)

V. "Notes of Researches on the Poly-Ammonias."—No. XVI. Triatomic Ammonias. By A. W. Hofmann, LL.D., F.R.S. (See p. 413.)

VI. "Notes of Researches on the Poly-Ammonias."—No. XVII. Mixed Triammonias containing Monatomic and Diatomic Radicals. By A. W. Hofmann, LL.D., F.R.S. (See p. 420.)

VII. "Notes of Researches on the Poly-Ammonias."—No. XVIII. Tetrammonium Compounds. By A. W. Hofmann, LL.D., F.R.S. (See p. 423.)

VIII. "On the Lead-Zinc and Bismuth-Zinc Alloys." By A. Matthiessen, Esq., F.R.S., and M. von Bose. (See p. 430.)

IX. "On some Gold-Tin Alloys." By A. Matthiessen, Esq., F.R.S., and M. von Bose. (See p. 433.)

X. "On the Sensory, Motory, and Vaso-motory Symptoms resulting from the Refrigeration of the Ulnar Nerve." By Augustus Waller, M.D., F.R.S. (See p. 436.)

XI. "Note on the Oxidation and Disoxidation effected by the Peroxide of Hydrogen." By B. C. Brodie, Esq., F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Oxford. (See p. 442.)

XII. "On the Contact of Curves." By William Spottiswoode, Esq., M.A., F.R.S. Received October 15, 1861.

(Abstract.)

In a paper published in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1859, p. 371, Mr. Cayley has investigated the theory of the conic of five pointic contact with any plane curve; but his method does not appear to admit of direct extension to curves of higher orders than conics having contact with any plane curve. The method here suggested would admit of such extension; and it may therefore be said to contain potentially the solution of the general problem of contact. But the labour of completely working out even the case of a cubic of nine-pointic contact would be very great. The case of the conic of five-pointic contact has been worked out, and the result agrees with Mr. Cayley's.

XIII. "On the Calculus of Functions." By William Spottiswoode, Esq., M.A., F.R.S. Received October 9, 1861.

(Abstract.)

In a paper published in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1861, p. 69, Mr. W. H. L. Russell has constructed systems of multiplication and division for functions of certain non-commutative symbols, viz. $\rho=x$, and $\pi=x\frac{d}{dx}$, and has given the quotient and remainder after both "internal" and "external division" of the symbolical function

$$\rho^n\phi_n(\pi)+\rho^{n-1}\phi_{n-1}(\pi)+\ \ldots\ \phi_0(\pi)$$

by the factor $\rho\psi_1(\pi)+\psi_0(\pi)$. But in the case of

$$\phi_n(\rho)\pi^n+\phi_{n-1}(\rho)\pi^{n-1}+\ \ldots\ \phi_0(\rho)$$

he has given only the quotient and remainder after internal division in the case of $n=3$. I have here investigated the general case. The formulæ will be best understood by reference to the memoir itself.

XIV. "On the Action of Hydriodic Acid upon Mannite." By J. A. Wanklyn, Esq., and Dr. Erlenmeyer. Communicated by Dr. Frankland. Received October 24, 1861.

Mannite may be regarded as a six-atomic alcohol, or better as *hydride of hexyl*, in which six atoms of hydrogen are replaced by six atoms of peroxide of hydrogen.

$$\text{Mannite}=\mathrm{C}_6\,\mathrm{H}_8\,(\mathrm{HO})_6.$$